

MEMORANDUM

TO: Luis Alejandro, Chief, Water Management Section (USACE)

FROM: John Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division (SFWMD)
Akin Owsina, Chief, Hydraulics & Hydrology Bureau (SFWMD)

DATE: March 10, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for March 8, 2016 to March 14, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from March 8, 2016 to March 14, 2016. On March 7 the Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.68 feet, NGVD, and had just transitioned from in the Intermediate Sub-band to the Low Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the Lake stage experienced a decrease of 0.24 feet.

There has been no District wide rainfall recorded up to date for the month of March. The upcoming two weeks are forecast be below normal for this time of the year.

Forecasts: Consistent with the forecast El Niño conditions, the most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for Central and South Florida indicates an increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall (65%) for the month of March 2016, and increased chances of above-normal rainfall (55%) for the three-month window March to May 2016. The CPC rainfall outlooks for the April to June and into the 2016 wet season are for equal chances of above, below and normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With the Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends “Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades Impacts”

Over the 7-day period from February 29, 2016 to March 06, 2016, about 400 ac-ft were sent from Lake Okeechobee to STA-1E for vegetation maintenance purposes. No regulatory releases from the Lake south to the remaining STAs were made. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 were approximately 1,400 ac-ft.

No Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases to the WCAs will be implemented during this week because the USACE has not asked the SFWMD to implement such releases. However, the District will implement releases from the lake to the A-1 FEB to increase depth in the FEB. The expectation is not to release any of this water into the STAs at this point in time.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With the Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends “S-79 up to 3,000 cfs and S-80 up to 1,170 cfs”. The SFWMD recommends following the 2008 LORS.

In the St. Lucie Estuary, salinity during the past week had a small increased, but remained in the poor range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinities at Sanibel remained in the good range for adult oysters. Salinity at Shell Point increased from the fair range into the fair range. Salinity at Cape Coral remained in the poor range.

Detailed reports are available at the [SFWMD Operational Planning Portal](#).